

SENATE BILL NO. 520

INTRODUCED BY J. BOHLINGER, F. THOMAS, DOHERTY, MOHL, SHEA, TAYLOR

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE LAWS GOVERNING BOXING; AUTHORIZING CLUB BOXING; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS FOR CLUB BOXING EVENTS, MATCHES, AND PARTICIPANTS; AMENDING SECTION 23-3-404, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 23-3-404, MCA, is amended to read:

"23-3-404. Board jurisdiction -- license required -- contestant participation. (1) ~~(a) The~~ Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the board has sole management, control, and jurisdiction over each professional or semiprofessional wrestling or boxing match or exhibition, including "so you think you are tough" boxing matches and mud wrestling, involving recognition, a prize, or purse and at which an admission fee is charged, either directly or indirectly, in the form of dues or otherwise, to be held within the state, except a match or exhibition conducted:

~~(a)(i)~~ by a university, college, or high school;

~~(b)(ii)~~ by the military; or

~~(c)(iii) for contestants under 16 years of age,~~ by a recognized amateur association.

(b) The board has jurisdiction over club boxing specified in [sections 2 through 6].

(2) ~~No~~ An organization or individual may not conduct a match or exhibition within the board's jurisdiction unless ~~it~~ the organization or ~~he~~ the individual is the holder of an appropriate license granted by the board.

(3) ~~No~~ A referee, manager, or judge may not participate in a match or exhibition within the board's jurisdiction unless ~~he~~ the individual is licensed by the board and the match or exhibition is conducted by an organization or individual licensed by the board.

(4) ~~No~~ A professional or semiprofessional boxer or wrestler may not participate in a match or exhibition within the board's jurisdiction unless ~~he~~ the individual is licensed by the board and the match or exhibition is conducted by an organization or individual licensed by the board and ~~his~~ the individual's right to participate has not been suspended under 23-3-603."

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2 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 2. Club boxing conditions.** (1) The following conditions apply to a club
3 boxing event:

4 (a) A match is limited to three 90-second rounds with a 90-second rest period between rounds
5 unless the match results in a draw, in which case an additional 90-second round is authorized.

6 (b) A purse may not exceed \$500.

7 (c) The promoter may appoint the judges and referees from among the licensees.

8 (d) A physician, physician assistant-certified, nurse, or emergency medical technician must be
9 present at an event.

10 (2) The following conditions apply to the participants in a club boxing match:

11 (a) Participants shall wear 16-ounce gloves.

12 (b) Headgear is optional, but participants shall wear mouthpieces and groin protectors.

13 (c) Female participants shall wear breast protectors.

14 (d) A participant must receive a physical examination from an individual listed in subsection (1)(d)
15 prior to the match.

16 (e) A participant's license is \$10 EACH YEAR.

17 (f) For participants weighing between 100 and 180 pounds, the weight differential for participants
18 in a match may not exceed 15 pounds.

19 (g) A participant must be 18 years of age or older to participate in a club boxing event unless the
20 participant's parent or guardian has provided the board with written permission to participate in an event
21 as an amateur.

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23 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 3. Club boxing -- licenses -- fees.** For club boxing events, the following
24 fees apply:

25 (1) A promoter's license is \$100 for each year and applies to events within a 160-mile radius of
26 the residence or place of business of the promoter as shown on the license application.

27 (2) A referee's license is \$10 each year.

28 (3) A judge's license is \$10 each year.

29 (4) The sanctioning fee for a club boxing event is \$25.

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NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Club boxing promoter's surety bond.** In order to be licensed, each promoter shall post a \$1,500 surety bond or the cash equivalent with the board.

NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Club boxing events.** (1) A board member is not required to be in attendance at a club boxing event.

(2) A professional or amateur boxer may participate in a club boxing event. The rules adopted by the board for professional boxing apply to any match between professional boxers at a club boxing event.

(3) A match at a club boxing event must be judged based upon aggressiveness, ring generalship, and punches landed cleanly. A referee shall use a standing 8 count in any match in which a participant appears to be in danger of being knocked out. The scoring for a referee's use of a standing 8 count is in the discretion of the judges.

(4) A promoter of a club boxing event shall provide the board with the results of all matches within 10 days after the completion of an event.

(5) The compensation for judges and referees must be agreed upon by the promoter and the judges and referees.

(6) An application for sanctioning an event must be submitted to the board at least 10 days prior to the scheduled time for the event.

NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Rulemaking.** The board may adopt rules to implement [sections 1 through 6]. In adopting rules, the board shall base the rules upon the rules in effect in other states that regulate club boxing.

NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Codification instruction.** [Sections 2 through 6] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 23, chapter 3, and the provisions of Title 23, chapter 3, apply to [sections 2 through 6].

NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2001.

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